WHEN THE VIRGIN MARY WAS PREGNANT WITH CHRIST,
THE LORD IS WITH YOU.
CONGRATULATIONS, YOU FAVOURED ONE.
*TN: WARAIMESHI IS THE NAME OF A JAPANESE COMEDIC DUO.
JESUS, HOW MANY PIECES OF OMOCHI** DID YOU PUT INTO THE SWEET WINE...?
IT IS KNOWN THAT THE ARCHANGEL GABRIEL APPEARED—
**TN: OMOCHI IS GLUTINOUS RICE CAKES USUALLY MADE BEFORE THE NEW YEAR AND EATEN DURING THE NEW YEAR.
I HAVE BEEN TARGETED FOR THIS TERRORIST ACT OF CONCEPTION!?
DON'T TELL ME, THIS STOMACH
THE LORD IS WITH YOU...
FOR SOME REASON, MY STOMACH HURTS
I HAD BETTER STOP EATING THE OMOCHI!
YESSS!
OWW..
CONGRATULATIONS, YOU FAVOURED ONE. .
WHO IS IT ..?

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BUDDHA

THE WINTER SPORT THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO TRY IS CURLING SWEEPING ON ICE LOOKS FUN!

HAPPY NEW YEAR, JESUS!!

あ

あっ

WOW GABRIEL! EVERYONE! WHAT'S UP!

JESUS

THE WINTER SPORT THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO TRY IS SKI-JUMPING. IT SEEMS THAT HEAVEN CAN BE REACHED BY JUMPING.

JESUS, YOU SEEM TO HAVE GROWN STRONGER SINCE WE LAST MET!

JESUS, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL...!

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME EVERYONE... SINCE 121, ISN'T IT...!?

I HAVEN'T MET THE OTHER DISCIPLES OTHER THAN ANANDA...

JESUS LOOKS HAPPY ...

WHEN WE FIRST MET, YOU WERE ONLY THIS SMALL...

Jesus

TIN: AN ENVELOPE CONTAINING MONEY USUALLY GIVEN BY EL... TO CHILDREN FOR THE NEW YEAR.

RATHER THAN FOR THE NEW YEAR...

IT'S FINE! IT'S FINE!!

EH, MONEY FOR THE NEW YEAR*!? I CAN'T ACCEPT THIS I'VE COME TO BE OF AGE AS WELL..

AH, THIS IS FROM THE BOTH OF US, MARIA AND I...

YOU'RE ACTUALLY A LITTLE ANGRY THAT JESUS DIDN'T RETURN HOME, AREN'T YOU ...?

HOW-EVER, GABRIEL-SAN ..

EH...

HAHAHA, STOP IT. THE TIME WHEN I WAS A FETUS DOES NOT COUNT!

*7IN: MODEL OF A CAR PRODUCED BY SUBARU.

GIFT VOUCHERS AND DEPACHIKA* FOOD VOUCHERS...
WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE IT, YOU CAN COME IN A BRAT.*
NO, I DON'T MEAN ANYTHING AT ALL!!
THIS... BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, I WILL DEFINITELY ..!

7IN: "DEPACHIKA" REFERS TO BASEMENTS OF DEPARTMENT STORES WHICH USUALLY SELL FOOD AND SOUVENIR FOOD ITEMS.

AH, THE TOILET IS HERE. THERE'S NO NEED TO STAND ON CEREMONY ...
The light switch is inside.
FUFUFU... BUDDHA, DON'T YOU KNOW THAT WE ARE ARCH-ANGELS?
AHHH, SORRY, BUT SPACE-WISE, EXTENDING THOSE...
ERM, EXCUSE ME BUT CAN I EXTEND MY WINGS...?
AH, IF THAT'S THE CASE... WE WILL DO THE EXTENSION ONE BY ONE, BY ROTATION...
WOW, THANK YOU SO MUCH...
AH, TAKE THIS TOO. TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR.
AH, WELCOME, COME IN!

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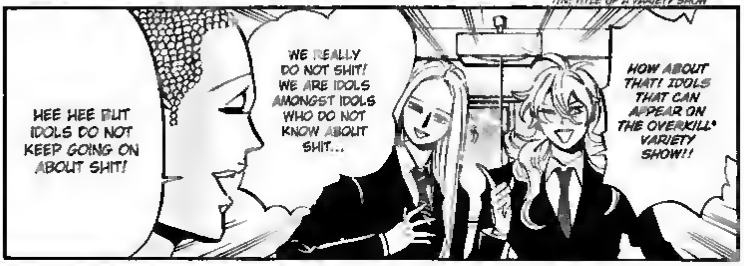
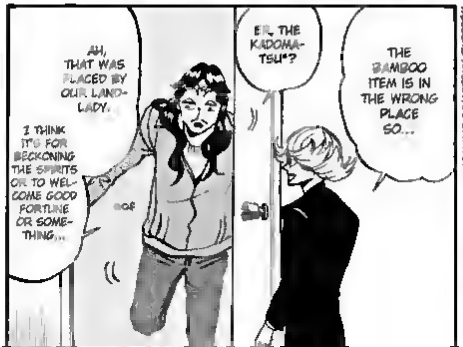
TN: TITLE OF A VARIETY SHOW


HEE HEE BUT IDOLS DO NOT KEEP GOING ON ABOUT SHIT!
WE REALLY DO NOT SHIT! WE ARE IDOLS AMONGST IDOLS WHO DO NOT KNOW ABOUT SHIT...
HOW ABOUT THAT! IDOLS THAT CAN APPEAR ON THE OVERKILL* VARIETY SHOW!!

NO, HE'S HERE. HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT MOVING IT ASIDE...
EH... COME TO THINK OF IT, WHERE IS URIEL?
WORKING EVEN ON THE FIRST THREE DAYS OF THE NEW YEAR?


AH, THAT WAS PLACED BY OUR LANDLADY.
I THINK IT'S FOR BECKONING THE SPIRITS OR TO WELCOME GOOD FORTUNE OR SOMETHING...
EH, THE KADOMATSU*?
THE BAMBOO ITEM IS IN THE WRONG PLACE SO...

TN: KADOMATSU IS A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE DECORATION OF THE NEW YEAR PLACED IN PAIRS IN FRONT OF HOMES TO WELCOME ANCESTRAL SPIRITS.

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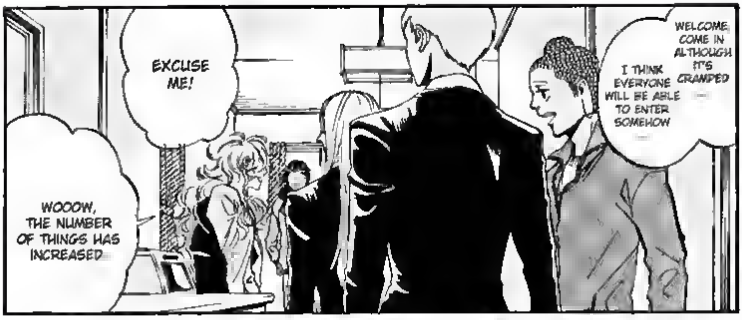
THE OTHER KADOMATSU WAS PLACED UNDER THE WINDOW FOR "THE PURPOSE OF INTERCEPTING ONE'S PATH OF RETREAT."
YOU DO NOT LET UP, NOT EVEN WITH "FORTUNE!"
ITS CAPTURE IS ENSURED.
THIS TOO. IT WAS PLACED AT THE FOOT OF THE DOOR.


WELCOME. COME IN ALTHOUGH IT'S CRAMPED
I THINK EVERYONE WILL BE ABLE TO ENTER SOMEHOW
EXCUSE ME!
WOOOW, THE NUMBER OF THINGS HAS INCREASED

SFX: NOTE DING DONG

YOU GUYS WERE CHASED BY MATSUDA-SAN ..
WHAT EXACTLY DID YOU DO TO MATSUDA-SAN LAST YEAR!?
EV... EVERY-ONE, BE WARY...
WE WILL NOT REPEAT THE SAME FAILURE TWICE...!

Ah, are you a foreign exchange student? You look so unsteady, you have to eat more!
Take this!
Eat this too!!
Take this too!
Everyone, keep your pockets closed.
Don't let them be stuffed full of snacks!!
Ahh, the forceful habits of the older women of this world.

But, what should we do? If it really is Matsuda-san...
Actually, that paper can be eaten whole...
...Calm down and listen, Michael...
In the midst of removing it, my hands became sticky..
Not only that, the paper surrounding the jelly was difficult to remove...

Ye.. yes!
Every-one, could you please hide?
Because parties are forbidden, she will surely be angry..
Here
Geez, ... it's hot!! Is this hell?
Rest assured, Michael. It's heaven in there!

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STOP PROSTRATING ON THE FLOOR AFTER RINGING THE DOOR BELL!
WISHING YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR, BUDDHA-SAMA!!!!*
*TIN: THE DISCIPLES ARE USING A VERY FORMAL LEVEL OF SPEECH IN GREETING BUDDHA
O...OH~~~ BUDDHIST MONKS ~~~~!!
? EVEN?
HOW BUDDHA LOOKS (RIGHT?)
WH... WHAT, EVEN YOU... GUYS!!
H... HOW SURPRISING!
舍利弗
BEFORE I CAME HERE, I STOPPED BY DOUTOR***...
TOILET
THEN I KNEW...
EH? WHAT'S WRONG!
TOILET ...!
FATHER!** WHAT SHOULD I DO...
RAHULA AS WELL!
HOW HAPPY SARIPUTTA-KUN AND ANANDA-KUN~.
WELL, WELL, A GATHERING OF THE ARCH-ANGELS!
DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU'RE GOING TO HIDE IN THE TOILET ALONE BECAUSE OF THAT.
...TOILET...
AH, RAHULA.
SO... SO MANY OF US CAN'T POSSIBLY FIT INTO THE ROOM...
***TIN: NAME OF A COFFEE CHAIN IN JAPAN, LIKE STARBUCKS.
**TIN: RAHULA IS BUDDHA'S ONLY SON.

BGM OF THE MURMURING OF A FLOWING RIVER
A WARMED SEAT...
A COVER THAT RAISES AUTOMATICALLY...
AND FINALLY, TO FINISH IT OFF, WARM WATER TO WASH YOUR BUTTOCKS...!!
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HERE, LISTEN HERE...
. CALM DOWN, RAHUTA.
THAT IS AKIN TO A VIP ROOM... HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO ENTER SUCH A PLACE FROM NOW ON...!!
...YOUR HAPPINESS IS MOST IMPORTANT TO ME, RAHUTA ...
AHH, INDEED...THIS IS INDEED FATHER'S TOILET!!
AIR FRESHENER THAT IS TOO STRONG
A SEAT THAT CUTS AS COLD AS ICE...
WHEN YOU OPEN IT, THE COLD AIR HITS

NO, NO, IF EVERYONE ENTERS, THE FLOORBOARD MIGHT GIVE WAY!
WOAH, THE FLOOR JUST CREAKED!
B...BUT, SO MANY OF US, IS IT REALLY...
OH~~ HOW HELPFUL! IF THE ANGELS WERE TO DO THE SAME, THEIR WINGS WOULD BE TOO BULKY!
YES!
THIS WAY, THERE WILL DEFINITELY BE MORE SPACE
SARIPUTTA, EVERYONE, PLEASE LEVITATE!
SILENCE
AH, SORRY, WHEN THE DISCIPLES ARE LEVITATING, THEY HAVE TO BE "NOT"...
I DON'T WANT TO BE SILENT AROUND THE KOTATSU DURING THE NEW YEAR!!*
YEAH YEAH, HOW IS IT DONE?
THAT'S AMAZING FLOATING WITHOUT WINGS!
IS IT ANYTHING TO DO WITH NOT HAVING ANY HAIR?

*TIN. TRADITIONALLY, A FAMILY SITS AROUND THE KOTATSU TO ENJOY FOOD, TELEVISION, GAMES AND CONVERSATION

NO WORRIES ABOUT THAT AS MY ANGELS CAN BE THE DEFAULT RECIPIENTS.
STARTING TO SPEAK BUT STOPPING MID-WAY...
SPEAKING WITH NO ENDING PUNCH-LINE...
It's annoying, isn't it, stuff like that...
You guys are being too harsh on the other party!
WELL, SPEAKING IS POSSIBLE...
BUT IT MAY INCONVENIENCE THE OTHERS...
EH? DO THEY START USING WORDS LOOSELY?
AH... IF SO, WE BROUGHT SOMETHING ALONG
Flurppy
IF YOU FEEL UNEASY, WHY DON'T WE PLAY A GAME?
WHAT ABOUT YOU? IS THAT POSITION ALRIGHT ...?
TIN: FUUINARAI IS A JAPANESE GAME PLAYED AROUND THE NEW YEAR. THE GAME IS SIMILAR TO TAINT OF TIN THE TAIL ON THE DONKEY WHEREBY THE PLAYERS PIN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE FACE ONTO A BLANK FACE
WITH THIS, THE ATMOSPHERE HAS FINALLY CALMED DOWN...
something like this
IT BECOMES A WEIRD FACE AND EVERYONE LAUGHS...
OH?
Ahhhh, the service.
HEE HEE... LUCK FORTH-COMING THROUGH A LAUGHING DOOR.
THE SERIOUS SARIPUTTA SOUNDS BOISTER-OUS.
"LUCKY LAUGH SOME-THING"...
THOSE GUYS IN HEAVEN WERE INFORMED THAT DURING THE JAPA-NESE NEW YEAR, IF YOU PLAY, IT WILL HAVE TO BE THAT.
This is the situation out there!
AH.. A FACE PUZZLE WITH BLIND-FOLDED EYES!
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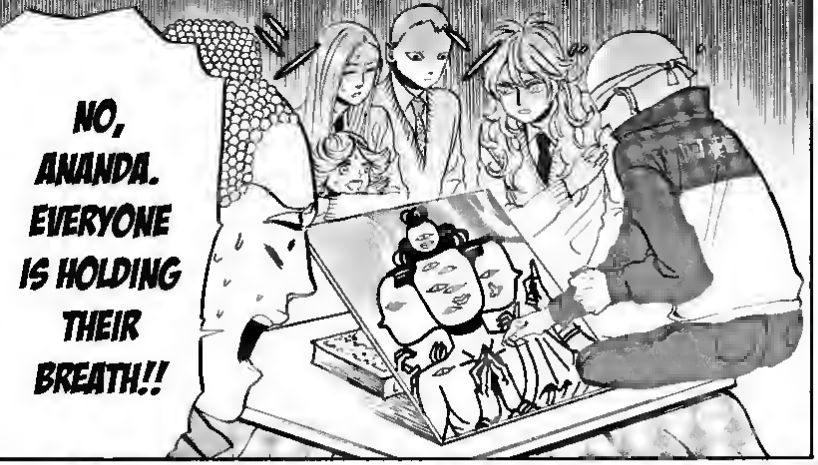
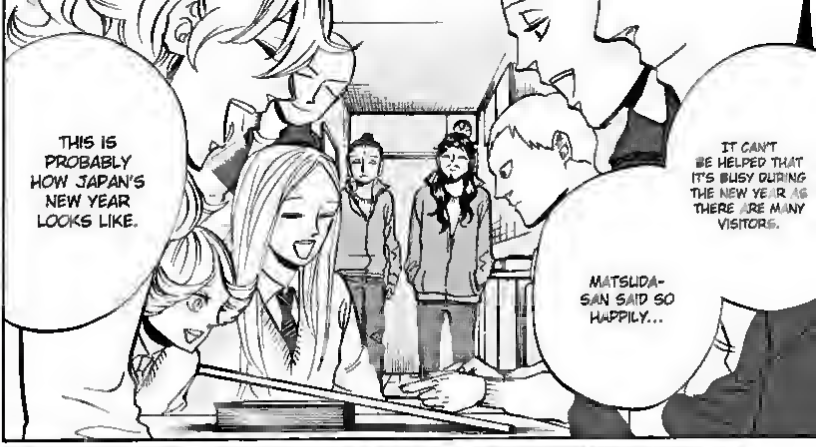

NO, ANANDA. EVERYONE IS HOLDING THEIR BREATH!!

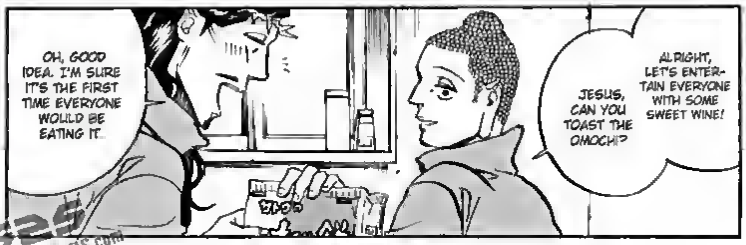
OH……
LIWA… LIWAWA AAA!!
EH…
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, FOUR HEADS AND SIX ARMS IS TOO SCARY!
MATCH THE NUMBER OF FACES WITH THE MORTAL WORLD!

MORE IMPORTANTLY,
GREAT, THEY FINALLY SETTLED DOWN.
ISN'T THIS THE FIRST TIME OUR HOUSE IS THIS LIVELY?

NEXT UP, I WANT TO TRY!!
THAT… THAT'S TRUE. IF SO…
HEE HEE…

ALRIGHT THEN, ONLY FOR THE FACE, LET'S PLAY IT BY THE NUMBER OF THE SON OF MAN.*
THAT WAY, IT WON'T BE SCARY.


THIS IS PROBABLY HOW JAPAN'S NEW YEAR LOOKS LIKE.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED THAT IT'S BUSY DURING THE NEW YEAR AS THERE ARE MANY VISITORS.
MATSUDA-SAN SAID SO HAPPILY...


OH, GOOD IDEA. I'M SURE IT'S THE FIRST TIME EVERYONE WOULD BE EATING IT.
JESUS, CAN YOU TOAST THE OMOCHI?
ALRIGHT, LET'S ENTERTAIN EVERYONE WITH SOME SWEET WINE!

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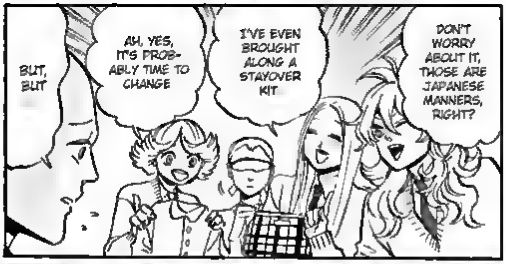
E-H, THERE ARE FOUR ANGELS AND DISCIPLES...
One, two, three
ALRIGHT, EVEN IF WE INCLUDE OURSELVES, THERE IS ENOUGH OMOCHI TO GO AROUND.

OOH, SOMETHING SMELLS GOOD ...?
DON'T BE STUPID. ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT I'M CHEATING?
On the smallest face.
..YOU, CAN YOU SEE?

EH, IS THAT SO?
OH... OH DEAR! DURING THE NEW YEAR VISITS, IT IS GOOD MANNERS TO RETURN IMMEDIATELY WITHOUT ENTERING THE HOUSE!!
EH
WOW, BUDDHA-SAMA IS STANDING AT THE KITCH-EN..!!

AH, HMM, THAT'S SOME-THING THAT ONLY JESUS IS ABLE TO DO.
ARE YOU REFERRING TO THE OMOCHI? IF SO, LET ME..
IT ISN'T THE OMOCHI THAT IS INSUF-FICIENT...


BUT, BUT
AH, YES, IT'S PROB-ABLY TIME TO CHANGE
I'VE EVEN BROUGHT ALONG A STAYOVER KIT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, THOSE ARE JAPANESE MANNERS, RIGHT?

IF SO, THEN I'LL SERVE IT!
AH, NO, THE PREPA-RATIONS ARE NOT ENTIRELY COMPLETE.

EH, IT'S FINE, SINCE IT'S READY AL-READY...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, PLEASE LET ME HELP YOU, BUDDHA-SAMA!

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THE ARCHANGELS UNDERSTOOD THE MEANING BEHIND THE SAID MANNERS.
WE WILL TAKE OUR LEAVE NOW!!!
I IMAGINED THAT I CLIMBED THE HILL OF GOLGOTHA THREE TIMES AND I FINALLY GOT ONE...

SEEN BY MATSUDA-SAN AS THEY WERE LEAVING.

It's a rubber band for kitchen use so when you remove it, be careful not to yank your hair out!!
Come on, tie it up with this rubber band
Come on~~
Hold on, you guys Cut your hair!!
Your eyes will become bad-

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SAINT YOUNG MEN CHAPTER 33

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